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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL'S
TV
SENSATION

...DUST
TO
DUST!



Pollard/MAG-32

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

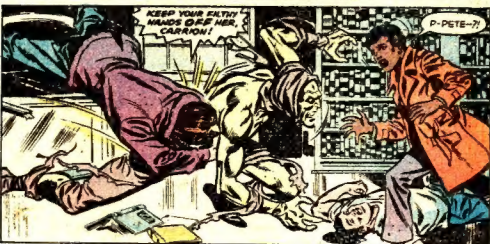
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

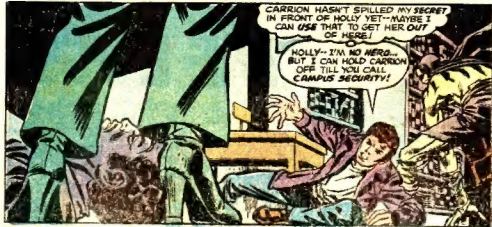
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WRITER / ARTIST / INKER / EDITOR / LETTERER / COLORIST / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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CARRION HASN'T SPILLED MY SECRET
IN FRONT OF HOLLY YET--MAYBE I
CAN USE THAT TO GET HER OUT
OF HERE!

HOLLY--I'M NO HERO...
BUT I CAN HOLD CARRION
OFF TILL YOU CALL
CAMPUS SECURITY!



AL-ALRIGHT,
PETE--B-BUT
PLEASE BE
CAREFUL!

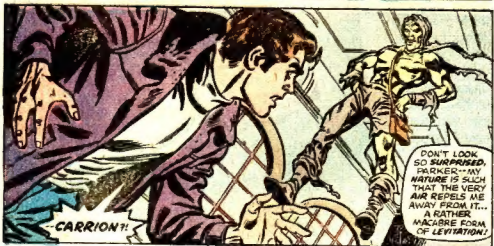
REMEMBER--
HECTOR'S THE
WHITE TIGER...
AND IT DIDN'T
HELD--NOT
AT ALL!



SLURP--'CAUSE HECTOR
WAS EXPECTING ME TO
SHOW UP...NOT A HON-
CIDAL MANIAC WITH
INCREDIBLE POWERS!

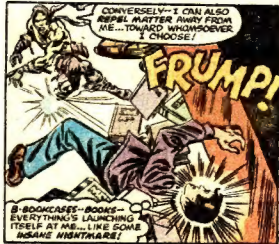


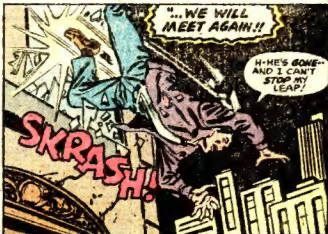
THEY'RE GONE!
NOW I CAN
CONCENTRATE
SOLELY ON--



--CARRION!!

DON'T LOOK
SO SURPRISED,
PARKER--MY
NATURE IS SUCH
THAT THE VERY
AIR REPELS ME
AWAY FROM IT...
A RATHER
MACABRE FORM
OF LEVITATION!





SECONDS LATER...



AMIGO--?

H-HECTOR!
I--I'M ALRIGHT--
THE BUSINESS BROKE
MY FALL! JUST
HAD THE WIND
KNOCKED OUT
OF ME!

HECTOR!
IS HE--??

MIRACULOUSLY-- HE IS
ALIVE, AMIGA! BUT
YOUR ATTACKER--?

GONE! HE RAVED
ABOUT THINGS I
DIDN'T UNDER-
STAND, KICKED
ME AROUND--

--THEN THREW A
RED POWDER IN
MY FACE--
LAUGHED AND
VANISHED!

IS! THAT SAME
POWDER ROBBED ME
OF CONSCIOUSNESS
BEFORE I KNEW
WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

OBTAININGLY, THIS CARRION IS THE
SAME ONE WHO RAVAGED YOUR
APARTMENT! BUT COME, AMIGO
--YOU ARE TIRED!

*LAST ISN--AL.

TIRED ISN'T
THE WORD,
HECTOR--
I'M--

--EXHAUSTED!

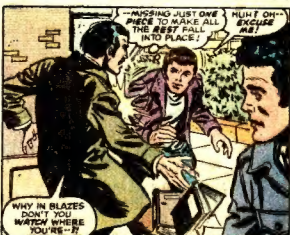
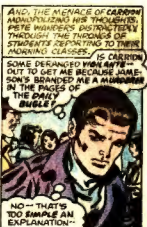
THREE DAYS OF INCREDIBLE TENSION HAVE AT
LAST TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON PETER PARKER! UN-
ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF, HE SLUMPS FORWARD--

--AND, CHANGING BACK FROM THE WHITE
TIGER IN A FLASH OF JADE BRILLIANCE...

...HECTOR AYALA
MAKES A
DECISION!

ICARAJOI PETE
NEEDS A DOCTOR
MORE THAN HE
NEEDS REST! COME
ON, HOLLY! LET'S
GET HIM TO--





TURNING HIS BACK ON PETER PARKER...

SCIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE RANDY VALE MOUNTS THE STAIRS OF B.S.U.'S SCIENCE BUILDING...

--AND PROCEEDS DOWN ITS DESERTED CORRIDORS, HIS FOOTSTEPS ECHOING ON POLISHED MARBLE FLOORS

LAB OFFICE

HE STOPS BEFORE A DOOR...

AND USING A KEY ONLY THE CAMPUS FACULTY SHOULD POSSESS... HE OPENS IT!

I'VE MET HIM, SIR-- AS YOU ORDERED!

ENTRAPPING HIM WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY!

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE PETER PARKER, VALE!

THERE IS FAR MORE TO HIM THAN I HAVE DESIGNED TO TELL YOU!

BUT HE WILL DIE JUST THE SAME!

YES, SIR--I'M SURE YOU WILL SEE TO THAT

AS RANDY VALE SUPPRESSES AN INVOLUNTARY SMUGGLE...

--OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO DOWNTOWN CHELSEA, WHERE WE FIND...

WIRE DODGERS FOR PARKER'S APARTMENT MISS WATSON!

MS. WATSON-- MS. MUGGINS!

HEH-HEH! THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN' AIN'T THEY? GO ON UP, HONEY--THE OTHERS ARE WAITIN'!

SAY--IT LOOKS ALMOST HABITABLE AGAIN!

HARRY AND UZ CAME OVER TO GIVE ME A HAND. MARY JANE--LUCKILY NOTHING WAS DESTROYED!

BUT THE PLACE SURE COULD USE ANOTHER LAMP!

I ONLY HOPE THIS CHEERS PETER UP WHEN HE GETS HOME!

READ THE LAST ISSUE'S BOMB--AL.

BUT PETER PARKER HAS BEEN AND GONE--RETRIEVING SOMETHING FROM A GARBAGE CAN ALONGSIDE HIS APARTMENT BUILDING WITHOUT EVER ENTERING HIS HOME!

I COULDN'T PUT MARY JANE OR LIZ AND HARRY IN DANGER!

CARRION SEEMS TO KNOW MY EVERY MOVE!

ALL RIGHT THEN--HE WANTS ME, I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM... BY KEEPING IN THE OPEN!

SINCE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING FOR HIM--THE ONLY WAY TO CONFRONT HIM IS BY GIVING HIM EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK ME!

BUT, UNBENEFITING TO OUR GRIM GRADUATE STUDENT, A PALE GUARDIAN ANGEL MONITORS HIS MOVEMENTS!



AND, EFFORTLESSLY LEAPING ACROSS THE CAMPUS'S ROOFTOPS, THE WHITE TIGER STALKS...

YOU ARE PLAYING A MOST DANGEROUS GAME, SENOR PARKER!

YOU SHOULD LEAVE SUPER-VILLAINS TO US SUPERHEROES--AND NOT PLAY WITH FIRE!

BUT THE WHITE TIGER CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR KNOWING LESS OF PETER PARKER THAN THE PUBLIC KNOWS OF HIM!

FOR HIS DUAL IDENTITY IS NO MYSTERY--WHILE SPIDER-MAN IS A CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRET!

NOR CAN THE TIGER BE CRITICIZED FOR NOT HEARING THE SAILENTLY GLOWING FIGURE THAT EVEN NOW BROODS IN UPON HIM--

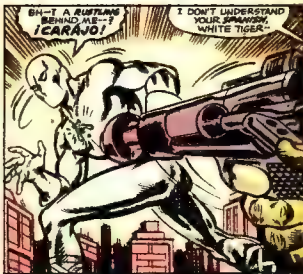


--ON FRAGILE
WINGS WHICH
SOUNDLESSLY
RIDE THE
WIND!

AND, NOT GIFTED WITH PETER
PARKER'S ABILITY TO SENSE
DANGER, THE TIGER REMAINS
REMOVANT OF HIS IMPENDING PERIL--

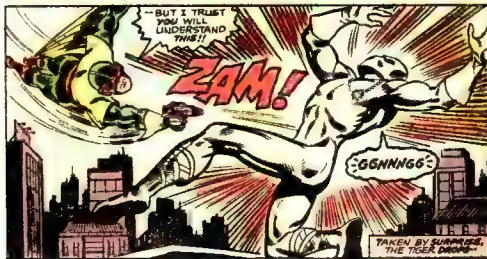


--UNTIL IT IS FAR TOO LATE!



BN--T A RUFLING
BEHIND ME--?
ICARAJÓ!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
YOUR SPANISH,
WHITE TIGER--



--BUT I TRUST
YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND
THIS!!

ZAM!

GGNNNGG

TAKEN BY SURPRISE,
THE TIGER DROPS--

-AND HIS UNKNOWN ASSAILANT LEAVES HIM WHERE HE LIES!

DARTER CALLING, SIR--PARKER'S "SHADOW" HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!



OUR TARGET IS VERY MUCH ON HIS OWN NOW!



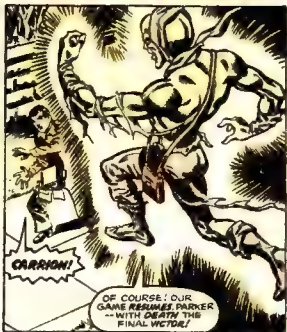
BUT...

SO--THE ATTACK BEGINS! CARRION SENDS A LADDER TO DETAIN ME--LEAVING PARKER UNGUARDED AND DEFENSELESS!

BUT THIS MENOW MAN WILL LEARN THAT I AM FAR MORE FORTUNABLE THAN HE HAD BARGAINED FOR!

AND WHAT OF THE DEFENSELESS PETER PARKER?

THAT FLASH OF LIGHT IN CAMPUS PARK! CAN THIS BE THE START OF--?



CARRION!

OF COURSE: OUR GAME RESUMES PARKER--WITH DEATH THE FINAL VICTOR!



AND DEATH IS BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR... CARRION!

MISTER-- YOU'RE AS CRACKED AS THE LIBERTY BELL--!



BUT I PLAN TO WRING SOME ANSWERS OUT OF YOU, SO HELP ME...



DON'T YOU REALIZE YET THAT YOU CAN'T OUTMANEUVER THE INEVITABLE PARKER? OUR DUEL IS ARMED-- IN MY FAVOR! YOU CAN'T WIN--

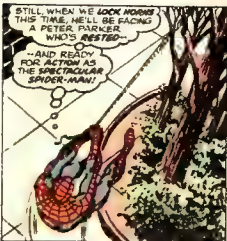
--YOU CAN ONLY PLAY ACCORDING TO THE RULES THAT I DEVISE! NOW WHY NOT CHANGE TO THE COSTUME YOU WEAR BENEATH YOUR STREET CLOTHES! THE ONE YOU RETRIEVED FROM THAT ALLEYWAY?



MY ENTIRE LIFE SEEMS TO BE AN OPEN BOOK TO HIM! YET IF HE'S ALWAYS WATCHING ME --WHY DOESN'T MY SPIDER-SENSE ALERT ME TO IT?

IN FACT, CARBON'S THE MOST DEADLY Foe I'VE EVER FACED--AND MY SPIDER-SENSE ISN'T REACTING EVEN NOW!

BUT I CAN'T LET HIM SHAKE ME! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS!



STILL, WHEN WE LOCK HORNS THIS TIME, HE'LL BE FACING A PETER PARKER WHO'S RESTED--

--AND READY FOR ACTION AS THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!



THERE HE IS--ATOP THE GYM BUILDING!

RECOGNIZE IT PARKER--THE SCENE OF YOUR ACADEMIC FAILURE?

YOU WOULD HAVE GRADUATED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A MISSING GYM CREDIT!





I AM ONE YOU KNOW, PARKER-- BUT I AM NOT WHO I WAS!

OBOY! NOW WE'RE PLAYING "WHAT'S MY LINE," RIGHT?



FOOL! THE ONLY GAME WE ARE PLAYING IS REVENGE!



YOUR-- AH-- LIFE, DID YOU SAY?

CAN YOU NOT YET GRASP THE TRUTH, MURDERER?



OH--I GOT THE TRUTH EARLY ON, FELLA! YOU'RE AN ESCAPEE FROM A HOME FOR THE NOT-ALL-THERE! YOU READ JAMESON'S ATTACKS ON ME IN THE BUGLE--



LIAR!! YOU MURDERED THEM BOTH--BY FALL AND BY FIRE!



BUT, BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN EVEN BEGIN TO DECIPHER CARRION'S STRANGE DECLARATION--

DARTER! YOU DARE--?!

MASTER, I-- I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE RECOVERED-- TOOK ME BY SURPRISE!

THE WHITE TIGER--? CARRION MUST HAVE WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T INTERFERE IN OUR FIGHT--

--AND SOMEHOW GOT THE POWER TO TURN YOUR NEURONS INTO A ONE-MAN SARAH SPIDER-MAN CAMPAIGN! BUT I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYONE-- YOU GOT THAT?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Gigantic news, gang! Here's the block buster I've been waiting years to announce! Remember the almost legendary original Spider-Man and Dr. Strange strips — the ones done by yours truly and Steve Ditko? The ones that helped to make the wondrous web slinger and the mystical Master of Black Magic two of the most popular heroes ever to grace the pandemonious pages of a Marvel mag? And remember how Sturdy Steve one day up and left the bewildered Bullpen to seek other paths of glory? Well, not only have I been eagerly awaiting his eventual return, but most of Marveldom Assembled has been waiting for it too, judging by the mountain of letters we've received over the years asking when the dazzling Mr. D. would return to the realm of the True Believer! In fact, I don't think I've ever spoken at a campus anywhere without at least half-a-dozen misty-eyed Marvelophiles imploring me to find some way to get Steve to wend his way home again! Okay now — here comes the good part! Ditko's back — and Marvel's got him! You'll be seeing his own brand of artistic magic in some of our greatest and most exciting mags, coming your way soon! Forgive me for sounding as if this is some sort of hard-sell commercial plug — it isn't meant to be. It's just that I feel incredibly sentimental about one of our original greats climbing aboard again, just as I felt when Jolly Jack Kirby returned to the scenes of his former glory! (For those of you who've been wondering what Jack is up to now, he's doing our storyboard layouts for NBC-TV's "Fantastic Four" Saturday A.M. animated show — miss 'em at your own risk!) And now, on behalf of the whole blissful Bullpen, and countless legions of Marvelites everywhere, let me joyfully shout "Welcome back, Steve! It's been a long wait, but it's gonna be worth it — 'cause the best lies just ahead!"

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Most Outrageous Oversight of 1978 Department. Would you believe that we forgot to mention the little fact that, a few months back, Broadway BOB HALL stepped down as Editor of about half the Marvel color comics line. Bob, as many of you know, is producer and co-author of the off-Broadway hit play, *The Passion of Dracula*. It seems that the show is such a smash that it's opened some new doors for Bob in the world of screenplay writing and major theatrical endeavors. It was with great sadness that Bob left Marvel, blundered somewhat by the wild and crazy no-holds-barred party thrown by the staff in his honor! but he promises to fit in some freelance work for us as often as possible. Best of luck from all of us in the Bullpen. Bye! We'll miss you!

ITEM! Second Most Outrageous Oversight of 1978 Department. When Bob Hall stepped down, much-beleaguered Editor-in-Chief Jim (Trouble) Shooter found himself in an uncharacteristically lucky position. As fate would have it, right about then, a long-time Marvel Master Artist and all-time friend of the Bullpen returned from his brief hiatus with... the other guys... and rejoined the fold! He's a true Renaissance man! He pencils! He inks! He writes! He edits! He has 1001 uses around the home and office, and he's an absolute terror on the volleyball court! Those of you who pay attention to the credits already know we're talking about none other than *Amiable* AL MILGROM, whose artful delineation of the CAPTAIN MARVEL series dazzled Marveldom assembled a couple years back! Al is better than ever, it seems, and raring to go! Besides editing DAREDEVIL, DEFENDERS, DOCTOR STRANGE, GODZILLA, HULK, TEAM-UP, MICRONAUTS, PETER PARKER, POWER MAN/IRON FIST, TARZAN, and more, Al's pencilling and inking all over the lot! Check out HOWARD THE DUCK #30, for instance! Good to have you with us, Al, and we're sorry we forgot to mention it sooner. The thing is, it seemed so natural to have you back home again, it sort of slipped our minds that you were ever gone!



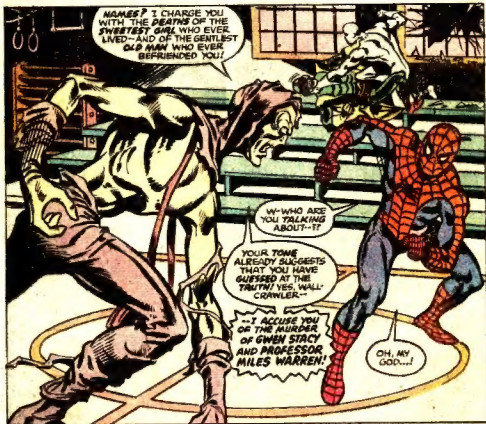
ITEM! It also bears mentioning that during all this editorial reshuffling somebody was minding the store — namely, faithful Assistant Editor *Mannerly* MARY JO DUFFY, who kept things running smoothly. Mary Jo is learning the editorial ropes with amazing alacrity, and it's a safe bet you'll be hearing lots more about this talented lady before long — right now, in fact! It seems that Jo has finally snagged her first regular series, namely POWER MAN/IRON FIST, and right off the bat she's made a winner! You've got to see issue #56! You just plain won't believe who Luke Cage and the K'un-Lun Kid come to scratch against! It may be the mismatch of the century — and not in favor of the good guys! Nope, we



won't ruin the surprise for you — but why let curiosity gnaw at your brain? Run down to your newsstand and buy a copy, already! It's there waiting for you!

ITEM! Speaking of waiting, it seems that the whole blamed world is breathlessly anticipating the comics event of the year — that being, of course, the 100th issue of CONAN THE BARBARIAN! As you read this, issue #97 is just hitting the stands, but for those few of you who aren't regulars (shame!), it's definitely not too early to get in on the building excitement. Actually the continuing saga has been gaining momentum for literally years now, and believe us, the payoff coming up in issue #100 is well worth the waiting. The few holdouts out there (you know who you are) who figure to buy our double-size spectacular hundredth issue as an investment, since it's sure to become a valuable collector's item in record time, but who won't part with a few shekels for the regular issues leading up to it, are actually cheating themselves out of the full glorious impact of this outstanding epic tale. So get with it, guys! You've been warned!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering about HOWARD THE DUCK lately, or even if you haven't, here's the scoop. Firstly, *Gentleman* GENE COLAN, high-ranking contender for the Greatest Penciler in the Universe title, is back, as is Super Inker *Amiable* AL MILGROM, and the word for the artwork is *superb*! Ace Writer *Boisterous* BILL MANTLO has found his Niche of Destiny with the Duck, and as a result of all this happy harmony of talent, issue #30 of HTD may well be the best ever! What's in it? Well, the return of Dr. Bong, for openers, and wait'll you see how Howie gears up for the final confrontation with his arch foe! Truck on down to your local magazine shop in a hurry and you may still be able to latch onto a copy of this fowl work — and whatever you do, don't miss next issue. It's even better! Only Marvel could bring you such madness for such a small fee!



THE SINISTER SECRET OF CARRION REVEALED!!

THOSE WHO FORGET THE PAST...!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Just one more issue to go if you're interested in winning an autographed No-Prize for the correct guessing of the sinister secret identity of the man called...CARRION! Yap, we reveal the dread truth in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #30—and it's so offbeat that even we at the Bullpen have trouble believing it! Be that as it may, it's a revelation you won't soon forget.

Another thing you'll remember and talk about for years to come is the art of Fabulous FRANK MILLER. Frank's work graced our two previous issues and the word going around the office is that he's one of the hottest new talents around! Look for fabulous Frank in upcoming issues of Daredevil! This ish, Gentlemen JIM MOONEY returns to wrap up the Carrion saga, and Fearless FRANK SPRINGER continues to provide his embellishing excellence.

PPTSS is on the move!

Dear PPTSS-people,

I've figured out who that guy in the tomb is! Namely, the only villain Spider-Man ever fought who was a Maggia agent, and in cahoots with A.I.M. to boot...Phantom! He could be the guy on page 30 of PPTSS #23. Am I right?

Andrew Murphy
104 Wynnedale Rd
Narberth, PA 19072

Nope, Andy—you're dead wrong...and all those who guessed that goggle-eyes was none other than the mysterious Masked Marauder came in in first place.

Dear Marvel,

In PPTSS #23, page 30, the unidentified Big M raises the lid to Ulysses S. Grant's sarcophagus, right? So how come you-know-who's amazing spider-sense doesn't alert its possessor to Big M's presence? That Big M was a foe (see page 17) and that there was danger (Big M has almost unknown powers—wouldn't that constitute a threat?) cannot be doubted. So send me a bonafide, first class—yep, you guessed it!—No-Prize!

A.F. Heaton
Arrowhead Blvd
Kokomo, IN 46901

No can do, A.F., for the simple reason that you've gone a bit overboard in your evaluation of Spidey's spider-sense. Yes, it does alert Spidey to danger, and, yes, Big M was a very definite threat...but so were Cyclone and all those gun-toting Maggia hoods packing the confines of Grant's Tomb. You can hardly expect discrimination in chaos such as that. So, sorry, Mr. Heaton—but try again.

Dear Marvel,

Stop featuring other characters in PPTSS. After all, this mag is not named HECTOR AYALA, THE WONDERFUL WHITE TIGER, or POWER THOMPSON AND SHA SHANFIST! By the way, the Maggia's Big M is the Masked Marauder, so hand over the gold-plated No-Prize!

Richard Holloway
Alexandria, LA 71301

We'd be delighted to, Rich...if you'd kindly send us your full address.

Dear Marvel,

I am no longer buying PPTSS. Why? The art. It has no detail or background. The nighttime panels are indistinguishable from the daylight frames. I could go on.

The story, "Guess who's Buried in Grant's Tomb!" was ridiculous. How could Moon Knight's simple silver capsule get through the Cyclone's whirling winds (fast enough to buffet henchmen!) and shatter at his feet? How could Moon Knight and Spider-Man dive through glass windows without being cut to shreds?

I originally bought PPTSS thinking that I wouldn't have to buy other Spider-Man series books and back issues. I was wrong. The use of footnotes (e.g., "See AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #180" and "See DEFENDERS #s 47-51", et cetera).

I might buy future issues of PPTSS if you shape up, but I doubt it.

Clay Schonberger
1640 Atlas Ave
Lincoln, NB 68521

Whew! How about if we answer your questions first, Clay, and then let another reader respond to your complaints? (1) The method by which Moon Knight defeated Cyclone is the same, on a vastly smaller scale, as that by which the Navy is currently combatting actual cyclone force winds, i.e., dropping a pellet of liquid nitrogen into the "eye" of a cyclone or tornado, thus lowering the temperatures at the center of the vortex and upsetting the warm air currents that actually whip these winds to a frenzy in the first place. If you're interested, Nigel Calder's "The Weather Machine" goes into it in greater detail. As for (2), Marvel heroes and Hollywood stuntmen have been doing the jumping-through-glass scene for uncounted years...it seems silly to stop buying a book for that reason alone. Now, here's Matt Kaufman with another opinion...

Dear Bill, Jim and Mike,

A number of things impressed me about PPTSS #23. Jim Mooney's art, Moon Knight's mansion set-up, the portrayal of Cyclone as a callous killer but, most especially, the distrust displayed between Spider-Man and Moon Knight.

Most superhero team-ups of late have given us two heroes who, as soon as they're done fighting, get along perfectly. The distrust that prevailed between our heroes this ish was a refreshing change and made for a more realistic mag. Not all heroes should be friends, any more than they should all be enemies! Although I don't want to see another guest-star in this book for at least a year (Oops!—Editor Al) those that have appeared have been handled extremely well, and Moon Knight more so than any other.

Secondly, was the use of the Maggia. Despite the presence of Cyclone, the ordinary gangsters were the main baddies. It occurs to me that if super-villains were used a little less, and non-super-powerful crooks a little more, it would make for much more realistic, and hence potentially more interesting, issues. One gets tired of a new costumed baddie every month. Not every book fits this formula of course, but Spider-Man's mags are unique in that they do, and well.

Sub-plots: I'm glad the Betty Brant/Leeds storyline is ending before it burns out; I think you should speed up the White Tiger's exit, too. As for Mary Jane, she should be written off. It's time she leave, not because she's been around so long, but because she and Pete aren't right for each other. Mr. Parker should have a new girl, though...but not right away.

Matt Kaufman
303 W. Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

THE MICRONAUTS ARE HERE!